

~~AB B1~~ a communication device connected to the output of the scanner.

~~39.~~ (New Claim) The systems as in claim 29, wherein the communication device is
~~connected to the locking mechanism.~~

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 21, 2002. Claims 1-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11-12, and 29 have been amended by this response. Claim 39 is a new claim added by this response. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked up copy of the amended claims are attached to this Amendment. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-19, 21-27, and 29-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,105,014 to Ramsden et al. ("Ramsden"). Claims 10, 20, 28, 35 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Ramsden. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Ramsden and U.S. Patent 6,003,010 to Scolly.

Applicants contend that Ramsden does not anticipate the claimed invention nor render the claims obvious, as described below. Nevertheless, Applicants amended the independent claims to further define the invention, placing them in allowable condition. The remaining claims depend from these four amended independent claims and are patentable (at least) if the independent claims are patentable.

First, claim 1 of the present application is directed to delivery of the package to the indicated recipient. Ramsden does not disclose a device for receiving a package being delivered by a carrier. Ramsden discloses a device that receives packages from senders only to be picked up by a carrier for delivery to the indicated recipients. See Ramsden, col 3, lines 2-4. Claim 1 is amended to further define that the method is directed to a carrier delivering a package.

Second, claims 11 and 12 are directed to the shipping method of the carrier picking up packages from receptacles in arbitrary locations. In the invention, the carrier is informed of the receptacles having package(s) for pick up by the communications from the receptacle and/or sender. Ramsden does not disclose picking up packages from arbitrary locations. Ramsden discloses a method where a carrier makes a predetermined route picking up packages from the receptacles (in public places) on the predetermined route. See Ramsden, col. 23, lines 48-58; col. 25,

lines 4-6; and col. 29, lines 17-23. Claim 11 is amended to further define that the method includes dispatching the carrier to the location of the receptacle having a package for shipping. Claim 12 is amended to further define that the method includes automatically notifying the carrier of the shipping information thereby informing the carrier of the location of the receptacle having a package for pick up. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the recitations in the claims that depend from claim 12 as well in determining on the allowability of the subject matter of those claims.

Third, claim 29 of the present application is directed to a receptacle attached to an edifice such as a residence or office, where the receptacle is secure from the outside but readily accessible from the inside. Ramsden does not disclose this feature. The structure disclosed in Ramsden is a stand-alone kiosk described only as being placed in public locations. See Ramsden, col. 7, line 66 through col. 8, line 2. Claim 29 was amended to accordingly to define the invention. Furthermore claim 39 was added to emphasize that the communications are connected to the locking mechanism.

Applicants further note that the specifications do not require the limitation of "resecuring" in contrast with "securing" the receptacle. The amendment is made here to remove this unnecessary limitation on the claims.

In sum, Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Clifford C. THOMPSON

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Examiner: Robinson Boyce, Akiba K.

For: RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS LOGISTICS SYSTEM AND METHOD

MARK-UP

May 9, 2002

1. (Amended) A method for delivering a parcel by a carrier to a secure receptacle at a location, comprising the steps of:

(a) dispatching the carrier to the location in accordance with delivery instructions associated with the parcel; [carrying the parcel to the location];

(b) accessing the secure receptacle ;

(c) placing the parcel within the secure receptacle;

(d) securing [resecuring] the secure receptacle; and

(e) automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after the securing [resecuring] step.

2. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, including the additional steps of: reading a code on the parcel in response to the securing [resecuring] step; and storing the code in a memory.

3. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, the registering step including the additional steps of:

accessing a remote location by a communication link; and

conveying the placement data to the remote location;

wherein the registering step is in response to and contemporaneously with the securing [resecuring] step.

6. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the securing [resecuring] step includes the additional step of:

moving from the unlocked state to the locked state after receiving the parcel.

8. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the securing [resecuring] step.

11. (Amended) A method for shipping a parcel from a secure receptacle at a location, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a pick-up request with shipping information including an identification of the location of the secure receptacle and an identification of a carrier;

(b) transmitting the pick-up request from the vicinity of the location to a remote location associated with the carrier;

(c) dispatching the carrier to [arriving at] the location of the secure receptacle in response to the pick-up request;

(b) accessing the secure receptacle;

(c) removing the parcel from the secure receptacle; and

(d) registering the removal of the parcel from the secure receptacle after the removing step wherein the registering step is in response to and contemporaneous with the removing step.

12. (Amended) A method for shipping a parcel from a secure receptacle at a location, comprising the [The method as in claim 11, including the additional] steps of:

(a) labeling the parcel in preparation for shipping with shipping information including an identification of the location of the secure receptacle;

(b) placing the parcel in the secure receptacle; and

(c) [notifying a carrier of] in response to the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle [after the placing step and prior to the arriving step], automatically notifying a carrier of the shipping information.

29. (Amended) A system for delivering and shipping a parcel, comprising:
a secure receptacle for receiving the parcel, the secure receptacle being positioned in a wall of an edifice, the secure receptacle having a secured opening from the exterior side of the wall and an unsecured opening from the interior side of the wall;

a locking mechanism for securing the secure receptacle from the exterior side of the wall;

a scanner positioned within the secure receptacle to scan information on the parcel; and

a communication device connected to the output of the scanner.

39. (New Claim) The systems as in claim 29, wherein the communication device is connected to the locking mechanism.